



NEW JERSEY
WEEKLY CROP WEATHER

New Jersey
Agricultural Statistics Service

In Cooperation With:
U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Agricultural Marketing Service
U.S. Department of Commerce/N.O.A.A.
Rutgers University

NOAA WEATHER RADIO STATIONS

Allentown
WXL-39 on the VHF-FM
frequency of 162.40 Megahertz.
Atlantic City
KHB-38 on the VHF-FM
frequency of 162.40 Megahertz.
New York City
KWO-35 on the VHF-FM
frequency of 160.55 Megahertz.
Philadelphia
KIH-28 on the VHF-FM
frequency of 162.475 Megahertz.

NEW JERSEY AUCTIONS

Vineland
Phone: (856)691-0721
Sales 10:00AM Daily except Sunday.
Landisville
Phone: (856)697-2273
Direct Sales Daily
Swedesboro
Phone: (856)476-0313
Hightstown
Phone: (609)448-0193
Direct Sales Daily

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Date: July 29, 2002

RUTGERS WEEKLY FORECAST

Agricultural Weather Advisory for New Jersey and Southeastern Pennsylvania

Issued by Rutgers University New Brunswick NJ

7 am EDT Monday, July 29, 2002

Rainfall amounts, a tenth to two tenths of an inch with locally higher amounts possible in thunderstorms through tonight, two to three tenths of an inch with locally higher amounts possible in thunderstorms Tuesday.

Winds for spraying, southwest 10 to 15 mph today, southwest 10 to 15 mph tonight, west 10 to 15 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent, 45 to 55 today, 90 to near 100 tonight, 45 to 55 Tuesday.

Dew points, low 70s today, mid 70s tonight, mid 70s Tuesday.

Drying conditions, fair today, fair at best Tuesday.

Frost freeze or dew, light dew tonight, little dew but wetting possible in thundershowers Tuesday night.

Percent of possible sunshine, 70 today, 70 Tuesday.

There is a 30 percent probability of precipitation during the 12 hour period beginning at 8 am and ending at 8 pm that could adversely affect the performance of pesticides that require a rain free period after application.

Hay cutting should see generally fair drying conditions over the next couple days with scattered showers and thunderstorms possible.

Estimated soil moisture in percent of field capacity is near or below 50 percent over the most of the region. Some areas could see relief from showers and thunderstorms possible today.

Conditions do not appear favorable for the occurrence of cranberry scald today and Tuesday.

The latest 6 to 10 day outlook for the period August 3, 2002 to August 7, 2002 is calling for temperatures to average near normal and precipitation to total below normal.

Climate summary for the week ending 8am 7/29/02

Temperatures averaged near normal. Extremes were 97 degrees at Trenton on July 24, 2002 and 51 degrees at Charlotteburg on July 26, 2002.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.53 inches north, 0.18 inches central, and 0.41 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 1.00 inches at Belvidere Bridge on July 23, 2002 to July 24, 2002.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 75 percent north, 60 percent central, and 38 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 74 degrees north, 75 degrees central, and 75 degrees south.

WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING 8 AM MONDAY 7/29/02

Weather Stations	Rainfall			Temperatures				Growing Degree Days 1/		Soil Moisture 2/
	Last Week	Since March 1		Last Week						
		Total	Dept.*	Max.	Min.	Avg.	Dept.*	Total	Dept.*	
- Inches -				- Degrees -				- Base 50°F -		
NORTH										
Belvidere Bridge	1.02	19.83	.54	94	59	75	1	1783	277	77
Canoe Brook	.19	21.61	1.24	96	58	74	-1	1903	406	73
Charlotteburg	.59	19.67	-.87	95	51	70	-3	1531	387	60
Flemington	.07	20.88	1.15	96	56	75	0	1821	276	60
Long Valley	.50	18.54	-2.58	90	58	72	-1	1449	127	62
Newton	.79	18.65	-.17	92	59	73	-1	1658	303	72
CENTRAL										
Freehold	.20	16.35	-2.78	96	59	75	-1	2014	355	54
Long Branch	.30	18.06	-.95	94	63	74	-2	1831	250	46
New Brunswick	.06	18.53	-.55	95	59	74	-1	1924	182	74
Pemberton				DATA NOT AVAILABLE						
Toms River	.27	20.97	1.37	94	61	74	-1	1956	369	52
Trenton	.05	17.53	-.73	97	59	75	-2	1942	126	30
SOUTH										
A.C. Marina	.24	17.12	.86	84	64	74	-1	2000	408	24
Cape May C.H.	.46	17.70	.80	93	60	75	-2	2103	412	27
Downstown	.62	18.13	.30	94	58	74	-3	1984	106	39
Glassboro	.27	16.73	-2.08	96	63	79	2	2191	387	43
Hammonton	.58	16.13	-2.72	95	58	73	-4	2004	202	40
Pomona	.28	18.61	1.64	95	57	74	-2	1975	295	30
Seabrook	.42	20.10	2.85	95	62	77	0	2236	401	37
South Harrison	.17	18.04	-1.00	96	60	78	N/A	2118	N/A	N/A

*Departure from normal.
1/ Growing degree days since March 1, total and departure from normal or long term average.
2/ Estimated soil moisture as % of field capacity based on climate data.

AGRICULTURE

Temperatures averaged below normal for much of the week, bringing some relief from last week's hot weather. Widely scattered showers and thunderstorms on Thursday did little to alleviate prevailing dry conditions. Hot and humid weather returned by Sunday, with heat indices in the 90's across much of the area. Outdoor activities included cutting and baling hay, harvesting summer vegetables, irrigating fields and spraying. Days suitable for field work averaged 6.3. Top soil moisture was rated 20% very short, 55% short, and 25% adequate. Corn silked 35%. Corn condition was rated 55% fair and 45% good. Producers reported increased insect pressure in some fields due to recent weather conditions. Soybeans blooming 30%. Soybean condition was rated 23% fair and 77% good. Clear skies and light winds provided excellent drying conditions for hay. Livestock producers increased supplemental feeding of their herds due to dry pastures. Vegetable and fruit producers irrigated fields and scouted for pests. Sweet corn, tomato, and cucumber harvest continued on schedule. Peach producers made good progress harvesting early varieties, with good quality and quantity reported. Apples were rated in mostly fair to good condition. Blueberries were rated in mostly good condition, with harvest continuing on schedule. Grapes were also rated in mostly good condition, although some vineyard producers reported minor pest problems due to recent weather conditions.

SOIL MOISTURE TABLE

	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY SHORT	20%	20%	5%
SHORT	55%	50%	43%
ADEQUATE	25%	30%	52%
SURPLUS	0%	0%	0%

RANGE AND PASTURE

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY POOR	0%	0%	4%
POOR	36%	22%	7%
FAIR	47%	51%	52%
GOOD	17%	27%	37%
EXCELLENT	0%	0%	0%

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR JULY 29, 2002

Blueberries – Harvesting Elliott variety now. Quality has been excellent though heat is increasing ripening and hastening the end of the commercial season. Decreasing quantities of fruit will be available from now on.

Cabbage – Green, Red, and Savoy available in quantity and quality. Volume and size has been less with the hotter weather.

Cantaloupes – The hot weather is hastening the ripening and available volume. Sizes are also a little smaller. Fair volume is available now with quantity increasing weekly.

Collards & Escarole/Endive – Good quality and decreasing quantity available now. Hot weather causing lighter quantities to be available. Will be available throughout the Summer.

Cucumbers - Good quality and lessening quantity available due to the heat. Some growers starting to plant now for fall harvest.

Eggplant – Good quality with fair quantity available, and increasing each week.

Italian Eggplant – Good quality with quantity increasing each week. Volume is building.

Sicilian Eggplant – Good quality with only fair quantity, increasing each week.

Green Beans – Good quality but hot weather causing more size variability.

Green Onions – Good quality and quantity available.

Herbs – Lighter quantities available now for Cilantro, Dill, Parsley, Arugula, and Baby Arugula with hot weather stretches causing some mid-summer light availability of these and other herbs. Some herbs though, like Basil, Mint, and Mustard like the hot weather and thrive in this kind of heat. Expect most herbs other than Arugula to be available all summer.

Leeks - Good quality and increasing quantity of spring planted varieties being dug now.

Napa Cabbage – Quantity and quality available now.

Nectarines - Varieties being picked now are Summer Beaut and Sunglo. Quantities building each week. Mid-August is the heaviest volume time with great quantities of Red Gold and Fantasia varieties available then. Will be available through the end of August.

Peppers – Quality and quantity are available now.

Pickles (Kirby cucumbers) – Good quality and lessening quantity available due to the heat. Some growers starting to plant now for Fall harvest.

Plum Tomatoes – Harvest began last week. Quantity building quickly over the next several weeks with ripening due to the hot weather.

Shanghai Bok Choi - Quantity and quality available now.

Sweet Corn – Still the peak of season. Quantity available for supermarket buyers (8” size) with Argent and Silver King varieties. Good wholesale availability until at least the week after Labor Day. Quantity and quality varies after that due to fall insect pressures.

Tomatoes – The recent heat wave has continued to cause a lot of field ripening with this week’s heat expected to continue this pattern. Watch for small supply gaps in the future as the heat has caused the ripening of various sequential plantings to run together. Volume will continue to increase this week.

White Potatoes – Harvest began two weeks ago. Quantity expected to build each week.

White Peaches - White Lady variety started picking last week with volume available this week. The quality and color of this fruit is excellent. Blushing Star and Sugar Giant varieties should be available by mid-August followed a few days later by Lady Nancy. Snow Giant follows a few days later about the third week of August.

Yellow Peaches – Red Haven variety available in quantity this week with excellent quality and color and good size. John Boy variety is also being harvested now in volume with excellent quality fruit and color. Bounty variety is ripening with great color and size now with harvest anticipated soon.

Yellow Squash – Good quality and large quantity available.

Zucchini - Good quality and large quantity available.

**Provided by the New Jersey State Department of Agriculture.*